

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action and the Advisory Action**

In the Final Office Action dated July 3, 2003, claims 1-2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by PCT International Application Publication No. WO99/12068 of Osa et al. (hereinafter Osa). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Osa. Claims 6 and 10-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Advisory Office Action dated November 28, 2003, claim 5 stands rejected. Claims 6 and 10-17 are indicated to be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant proposes to amend claims 6, 10-12 and 15-17 in accordance with the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in these claims. Applicant proposes to cancel claims 1-3 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, 6 and 10-17 are presently pending in this application.

The Rejections of Claims 1-3 and 5

Claims 1-2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Osa. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Osa.

Applicant proposes to cancel claims 1-3 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer. In light of this cancellation, the rejections of these claims are now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

The Allowable Claims

Claims 6 and 10-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant proposes to amend claims 6, 10-12 and 15-17 in accordance with the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in these claims. Each of claims 6, 10-12 and 15-17 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6, 10-12 and 15-17 are in prima-facie condition for allowance in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to claims 6 and 10-17 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: December 3, 2003

By:



Baldine Brunel Paul
Registration No. 54,369

Customer No. 09629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
202-739-3000 (Phone)
202-739-3001 (Fax)